

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2020

Messenger



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Called, Empowered, and Sent by God to Live, Love, and Learn God's Word
Nuestra Declaración De Misión
Somos llamados, autorizados, y enviados por Dios para vivir, amar, y aprender la Palabra de Dios
Pastor Leslie Mahraun
360-592-5876

Church Email: immanuel.everson@gmail.com
Church Website: www.immanuel.lutheraneverson.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

From Pastor Leslie:

Grace and peace to you. It's hard to believe that we are already in Autumn. The fall colors are proof positive that the seasons have changed, and Reformation is just around the corner. It seems that time marches on.

The church continues, with **Bible Studies** the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays at 6:30 on Zoom.

Adult Forum: (Once worship moves back indoors with Zoom we will have Adult Forum on Zoom following worship),

Women of Immanuel continue with their programming (Gather) on the **4th Wednesday at 6:30, on Zoom**. It's all very new, but we will get used to the rhythm. It's so important to keep Bible Study and Gather in our weekly routine. Time spent in scripture and within fellowship is time well spent, it keeps us connected to God and to one another. I invite you to participate in weekly Bible Study as you are able. It's a lot of fun! We are studying Genesis.

Outdoor worship has been wonderful, and we hope to continue deep into October. We agreed to keep going as long as temperatures did not dip below 45 degrees. So, bundle up with a lap robe and a warm coat, and as long as there is no rain we will continue to worship at the Cemetery during October. It's great to be together in person for worship and Holy Communion. Deep blessings for sure!

I came across a Luther quote that I would like to share, at least it is attributed to him: "Pray and let God worry". This succinct statement is exactly what I have been feeling the last few weeks as more and more racial tension explodes, violence against women increases following the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and such mayhem as we prepare for the election in November. It would be easy to feel overwhelmed and give in to all of the worries surrounding us these incredible days. But Martin Luther's wise words are meaningful and right. Luther understood the beautiful and deep relationship we have with God; the love that God has for each of us is so deep and so adoring and this love brings God's kindness closer to us in a way that we might otherwise not ever understand. Luther knew and believed that God's love for us came as the love of a parent for a child, and prayer, the ultimate way to communicate with God, as the means of giving way with all heart to heart. These simple words, "Pray and let God worry" give us freedom to put into words all of the angst we have during these days of COVID, racial tension, unemployment, hostility, violence, the election, and all the other things we have on our minds these days, and allows us to place it in the open arms of our God whose love and care for us outweighs any burden we could ever imagine. And God, who is loving and wants to hear from us, is waiting to take the burden of fear and unrest and trepidation from us.

Finally, October marks my third anniversary as your pastor, and it is my joy to be with you. May God continue to bless our ministry together.

Pastor Leslie

Adult Forum

(Adult Forum will begin when we move back to Zoom every week for worship, based on the weather)

Dialogues On is an adult small group resource that encourages honest talk about difficult topics. In a time when so many conversations end in conflict, these resources equip readers to share their ideas, listen well, learn from other viewpoints, and develop action plans to bring hope and healing out of the church and into the world. Dialogues turn conflict into community.

Race and racism are so prevalent in US culture, that few stop to reflect upon what race is, why it was created, and how deeply ingrained race has become in American Christianity. It has left American churches segregated in the pews and divided in faith. Can this damage be repaired?

Dialogues On Race explores that very question. With seven essays from leading Christian thinkers: Kristofer Coffman, Lenny Duncan, Broderick Greer, Daniel Hill, Jim Bear Jacobs, Cami Jones and Rozella Haydee White.

Dialogues On Race asks penetrating questions about how the church in the US got to this point, and how, or if, white supremacy can be expelled from American Christianity. The participant's book is \$10.00 and may be purchased by pre-order. Just give your money to Pastor Leslie and she will order your copy. Class will certainly begin in November.

LUNCH & LEARN - America and the Holocaust

Tuesdays, October 6, 13 and 20, 12 noon-1pm via zoom

This 3-part series is offered by the Holocaust Center for Humanity in partnership with Pacific Lutheran University, generously supported by the Powell Family Foundation.

All sessions are free and open to all. [Go HERE for more information and to register.](#)

Tuesday, October 6 - Hell Before Their Very Eyes: American Soldiers Liberate Concentration Camps in Germany with Dr. John McManus, Military Historian

Tuesday, October 13 - Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe with Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, Historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Tuesday, October 20 - Atrocity Pictures: Antisemitism, the Holocaust, and the Hollywood Studio System Before 1948 with Dr. Steven Carr, Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne.

**UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT
DATES AT IMMANUEL:**

Church Bible Studies on Zoom:
Wednesdays at 6:30 beginning September 9
(first, second, third and fifth Wednesdays).

WOI Gather Studies: Fourth Wednesday of
the month at 6:30. (Over Zoom).



Scripture Readings

October 4 - 18 Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 - 19 Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 - 20 Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-13

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



October Birthdays

10/5 Aleks Toivola

10/12 Mark Ohlswager

10/19 Tone Piper

10/22 Zan Roman

10/22 Harry Williams

10/23 Carol Allison

10/25 Rena Guerin

10/26 Judy Bruland

10/27 Pat Hawley

10/27 Michelle Pattison

10/28 Laura Hookham

10/29 Wes Murdock

10/31 Steve Hoidal

Bishop's Message:

Dear Beloveds of Christ,

There are stories in this world that we will never know. Stories that beg to be told and yet they will never be heard because they have been forgotten, covered up, never told or intentionally destroyed.

A few weeks ago, I was floating down the Wenatchee River on an inner tube. It was a beautiful day – perfect weather – no sign of humanity anywhere. Rounding a bend, I suddenly saw a strange site: An old skinny white man wearing only a loin cloth flying a rainbow-colored kite. This man camping/living in an old RV on the banks of the Wenatchee, basically naked, long full beard and hair, arms outstretched towards the heavens and flying a beautiful multi-colored kite. *What story does he have to share?*

A few Sundays ago, the *New York Times* ran a photo essay about hunger in America. The author writes, “In the pandemic economy, nearly one in eight households doesn’t have enough to eat. The lockdown, with its epic lines at food banks, has revealed what was hidden in plain sight: that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that’s healthful — what experts call ‘food insecurity’ — is a persistent one for millions of Americans ... Like many hardships, this burden falls disproportionately on Black and Hispanic families, who are almost twice as likely to experience food insecurity as white families.” (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurity-hunger-us.html) Through the photo gallery in this *New York Times* photo essay, we catch glimpses of the lives of Kandice, Brayden, Doris, Armani and many others. *What other stories are held in this story?*

As I write this article, large swaths of California, Oregon and Washington are on fire. Houses burned to the ground. People missing. People killed. Treasured items gone. Lives disrupted and forever changed. *What stories are lost in the raging fires?* When you read this article, there is a very good chance that over 200,000 people in the United States will have died from COVID-19. Over 6 million will have been infected. Common sense measures to mitigate the spread of COVID have been

politicized. Suicide, depression, hunger, loneliness, domestic violence, joblessness, and other hardships have increased in these last six months. *What story is no longer possible?*

Today I am more and more aware of the stories that have disappeared, been forgotten, or pushed underground. And I am ever mindful that as people who follow Jesus, we have the responsibility, the obligation – maybe it is a calling – to listen to the stories in the gaps of other stories. And to understand that the biggest voice might not be the place where the story is happening. In Matthew 18, Jesus says, ‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.’ A few verses later Jesus says, “It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.”

You see, we are the people of the book – we are the people who claim the Holy Story. We are the people who believe that the story of God and humanity did not end with the cross but continues in, with and under all of us today. The Holy Spirit is alive and active among us. And the Holy Spirit is calling us through the stories we remember, the stories we share, the stories we hear, and the stories we notice.

Let us listen to one another’s story. Let us be mindful of the stories that exist on the margins. Let those of us who have had big voices quiet ourselves to hear other stories. And let us be mindful that listening to stories is not the end. For those of us who are white, let us take to heart these words from Austin Channing Brown, “In too many churches and organizations, listening to the hurt and pain of people of color is the end of the road, rather than the beginning.” (from *I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*) I would love to hear your story. How are you doing? Where is God working in your life and in the life of the Church? Where do you see God? What stories need to be told? What pain needs to be shared? What stories do you want to hear? May the One - whose story we live in - provide care, comfort, love, and justice for you and for this world.

Let us live, move, and be in God’s Holy Story.
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

September 17, 2020

Dear Interfaith Member Congregations and Friends:

“Good people turn to love, courage, and kindness in times of crisis, not hate, fear and cruelty.” (Laurence Overmire) This has certainly been our experience at Interfaith Coalition! Your generosity of time, resources, and compassion continued to be there for families and people in need in all Interfaith programs, despite COVID and other challenges this year. Thank you!

This letter contains a lot, but I’ll try to be brief. I am hoping that you will share the dates and information with your congregation, leadership staff, office, and newsletter.

Some program updates: The annual **Winter Warmth Drive** has begun. You should already have received information, but if not, please contact me immediately. Coat collections are happening throughout the county and we will still be helping our neighbors stay warm this winter. **Project Warm Up** hats, scarves, and gloves are also being collected. **Family Promise** continues to shelter and support families in a static site thanks to congregation heroic support, and families in our housing program have continued their work to transition to permanent housing. Although many other sites shut down, **CAST** has continued to feed the hungry, thanks to the dedication of many volunteers. A death in the family has paused our **Kids Need Books** program, and our thoughts and prayers are with coordinator Joe Nolting. The **Holiday Joy** program is in the planning stages – you will hear more soon.

Can you help? Interfaith Coalition can do so much because we use volunteers and congregations to do this important work. But we can’t do it without financial resources. Please talk to your congregation’s stewardship or finance committee about committing financial support to Interfaith; perhaps adding Interfaith as a line item in their budget or with a special offering. We know that money is always tight, but we stretch every dollar! I would be happy to speak to your church council, mission/outreach committee, pastor, etc. Just call or email me.

Transitions: After 28 years of service to Interfaith Coalition, Executive Director **Laura Harker** stepped down in August. We will never be able to adequately thank her for, not only her service, but for the heart and soul Laura brought to the Coalition. If you get the chance to drop her a note of thanks, I know she would appreciate it. Laura hands the reins on to **Deanna Wildermuth**, our new E.D., who started on Sept. 1st. We welcome her and look forward to her leadership.

Annual Meeting: Each year we celebrate our partnership in service with our congregations at the annual meeting. The meeting this year is a virtual event on **Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7pm**. Please advertise and on your congregation calendar. You’ll have an opportunity to meet our new director, view video and photos of programs, and hear firsthand from staff and some of our housing families, as well as electing new board members and approving the budget. We’ll send out specific info soon on how to attend.

2020 Proposed change to Articles of Agreement/Bylaws Oct. 27, 2020 - Interfaith Coalition

At the September 8, 2020 Interfaith Coalition Board meeting a unanimous decision was made to recommend the following change to the Articles of Agreement:

5. THE COALITION BOARD

5.1 The Coalition Board shall consist of not more than 24 members elected by the Representatives for three-year terms. Members-at-large shall not constitute more than 20% (rounded down) of the Board. The Board shall elect the following officers from its members who shall also serve as officers of the Board as the Executive Committee: President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, for terms of one year.

This small adjustment will increase our ability to fill the need for particular skills, address diversity, and include individuals who may be interested in supporting the work of Interfaith and are not a part of a member organization. The majority of the Board membership will continue to be comprised of individuals from member organizations.

THANK YOU for all you do! We know that we do not do this alone. If you have questions about any of the programs or information above, or want help in brainstorming ideas for collections, etc., please contact me! We hope that you will join us for our virtual Annual Meeting on October 27th and celebrate the many ways we work together to empower and bring hope to our neighbors in need.

Gratefully,

Janie Pemble
Outreach Manager and Congregation Liaison